

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method for producing a ketone compound, which comprises simultaneously dehydrating and ~~reducing~~ hydrogenating an acyloin in the coexistence of an acid catalyst and a ~~reduction~~ hydrogenation catalyst and in the presence of hydrogen.

2. (original): The method for producing a ketone compound according to claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is phosphoric acids or solid acids.

3. (original): The method for producing a ketone compound according to claim 1, wherein the acyloin is a 2-hydroxycycloalkanone having from 12 to 18 carbon atoms.

4. (currently amended): The method for producing a ketone compound according to claim 1, wherein the ~~reduction~~ hydrogenation catalyst is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a nickel catalyst, a cobalt catalyst, a copper catalyst, a palladium catalyst, a platinum catalyst, a ruthenium catalyst, and a rhodium catalyst.